

Mr. Stoddert said the negro had civil but no political rights. They had always formed part of the basis of representations in all the States and in Congress.

Mr. Brown thought the section had better stand as it was, not that he was opposed to the negro forming a part of the basis of representation, but because of the facility which the amendment offered for the subdivision of the State into small counties, a practice which might be carried to a pernicious extent, and had already been carried too far.

Mr. Ford said this offered no facility for the formation of new counties, as the whole subject was left under the control of the Legislature. As to the question of the gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Maulsby,) as to the prospect of the formation of a new county, such a thing might occur if negroes get control of the whole State.

Mr. Dent thought there was no force in the objections either of the gentleman from Baltimore, (Mr. Brown,) or the gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Maulsby.) It was impossible for them to provide against contingencies of the kind suggested, and which might never occur.

Mr. Walsh thought there was much force in the objections made. He did not think the people of Maryland would be willing to allow the formation of any new county which did not contain at least 10,000 white inhabitants, whereas under this amendment 1,000 white and 9,000 negroes might succeed in forming a county. The contingencies spoken of were not so improbable, after all. Congress might succeed in enforcing negro suffrage, and results might occur which would not be desirable. The people of the State could not consent to it.

Mr. Mackubin hoped the amendment would not be adopted and hoped that the precedent established in the case of Allegany county by the constitution of 1851 would not be departed from. If a new rule was now made, and this compromise departed from, there were good grounds for apprehensions of great dissatisfaction among the people of the more thickly settled sections of the State. He thought the best policy would be to adhere in this constitution to the rules as laid down in 1851, and again in 1861.